



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of Maryland*

*Thomas M. DiBiagio  
United States Attorney*

*Vickie E. LeDuc  
Public Information Officer*

*6625 United States Courthouse  
101 West Lombard Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2692*

*410-209-4800  
TTY/TDD: 410-962-4462  
410-209-4885  
FAX 410-962-3091  
Vickie.LeDuc@usdoj.gov*

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**FOR FURTHER  
INFORMATION CONTACT  
VICKIE LEDUC, AUSA  
(410) 209-4885**

**MARYLAND COUPLE CHARGED BY GRAND JURY  
WITH ENSLAVING JUVENILE GIRL**

Greenbelt, Maryland - Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights R. Alexander Acosta and U.S. Attorney Thomas M. DiBiagio today announced the indictment of a Germantown, Maryland couple on charges of involuntary servitude. A federal grand jury in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland indicted 44 year old Adaobi Stella Udeozor, of Germantown, Maryland and 47 year old George Chidebe Udeozor, currently a fugitive residing in Nigeria, for crimes in connection with their scheme to hold a 14 year old girl from Nigeria in involuntary servitude.

The three-count superseding indictment, which charges the defendants with conspiracy, involuntary servitude and harboring an alien for financial gain, alleges that both defendants held the young girl in their Maryland home from approximately September 1996 to October 2001, forcing her to work for little or no pay, as well as physically and sexually assaulting her. The superseding indictment alleges, among other things, that the couple induced the young girl to come to the United States by promising that she would be paid and be allowed to attend school. The superseding indictment also alleges that while the juvenile girl was working for them, the defendants assaulted her. In addition, the superseding indictment alleges that George Udeozor forced the juvenile girl

to have sexual intercourse with him on numerous occasions, told the victim that if she told anyone about the sexual assaults he would tell her parents that she was a “bad girl” and that she had become a prostitute.

The maximum penalties faced by both defendants is twenty years imprisonment, a three-year term of supervised release and a \$250,000 fine.

Adaobi Stella Udeozor will be arraigned on these charges on November 14, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. in the U.S. District Court in Greenbelt, Maryland.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of a joint investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice, United States Attorney’s Office and U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mythili Raman and trial attorney Seth Rosenthal, of the Criminal Section of the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division, will jointly prosecute this case.

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